

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, enclosed is a Partial English Translation of JP-146843. Applicants previously cited this reference in an IDS filed 2/25/05 with the U.S. PTO. Applicants believe that this reference should have been considered by the Examiner for the reasons recited below. However, in the event that the Examiner does not consider the 2/25/05 IDS as sufficient for consideration, then Applicants hereby authorize the Examiner to charge a \$180.00 IDS fee to Applicants' deposit account 07-2069 to satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3).

The Examiner asserts that the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS's) filed on 2/25/05 and 3/31/05 fail to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3) because they do not include a concise explanation of the relevance of each patent that is not in the English language. Applicants respectfully submit that these requirements have been fulfilled, and request consideration of the references submitted in these IDS's.

With respect to foreign references, MPEP 609 states that submission of an English language abstract of a reference may fulfill the requirements of a concise explanation. Furthermore, where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the search report which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. Since Applicants submitted a copy of an English-language European Search Report with the 3/31/05 IDS, and copies of English language abstracts of the Japanese patents with the 2/25/05 IDS, Applicants

respectfully request consideration of the references cited in the IDS's and in light of Applicants' compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3).

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (JP 09-146843). Applicants traverse the rejection because the cited reference fails to disclose (or suggest) a signature information producing unit that produces signature information in response to a close or open request to close/open a file, using the data of the file, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, and 14-16.

Yamamoto is directed to an information processor that manages the security of a stored file by reading security information from a file storing the security information for which access is requested. Yamamoto merely discloses a security information check and is silent about performing a signature check to verify that any tampering has not been made on a file. A registration means 12 registers data, a domain name and security information in a file and registers a prescribed domain name to a device. An access right confirmation means 13 confirms the access right based on the domain name and the security information stored in the file. (See the Abstract). As discussed on page 3 of the machine translation of Yamamoto in paragraph [0025], when downloading to a client 11, security information is added to the data of a file. Yamamoto fails to disclose or suggest using the data of the file to create signature information. Furthermore, Yamamoto is silent regarding producing signature information in response to either an open or close request.

In contrast, independent claims 1, 10, and 14-16 include signature information that is produced using the data of a file. That is, as discussed in Applicants'

Specification on page 12, lines 36 et seq. upon receipt of data from the hard disk drive unit 18, a driver produces signature data (A) using all or a part of the received data in accordance with a predetermined rule. (See also S41 of FIG. 5, and Applicants' Specification page 21, lns. 32 et seq., including FIG. 8 step S100.) Since Yamamoto does not produce signature information using the data of the file, the §102 rejection should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

Additionally, Applicants traverse the rejection because Yamamoto fails to disclose or suggest producing the signature information in response to an open request or a close request to open/close a file. More specifically, Yamamoto is silent regarding signature production upon the closing of a file or for signature verification upon the opening of a file. As discussed above, Yamamoto adds security information to the data of the file when downloading to a client. Yamamoto is not concerned with including file signature information when opening or closing a file in order to maintain data integrity, as in the present invention. Rather, Yamamoto is merely concerned with granting access to an authorized user. Since Yamamoto fails to disclose or suggest producing signature information in response to a close/open request, withdrawal of the §102 rejection for this additional reason is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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